

Clean Water Act decisions with the clear intent of the Federal Power Act. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

# SAM MEYERS—A POINT-OF-LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS

## HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 1995

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute, local 259 UAW Union President Sam Meyers whose life represents a Point-of-Light for all Americans. Brooklyn and the 11th Congressional District are particularly grateful to Sam Meyers for his early and visionary sponsorship of the Brooklyn Coalition for Community Empowerment.

For over 50 years, Sam Meyers has carried the UAW vision of social justice and militant trade unionism in his union and political life.

He began his journey in the trade union movement in 1940 as a sheet metal worker at Brewster Aircraft and as a member of UAW, local 365. Soon after, he was elected shop steward, a position he held until 1943 when he joined the Army Air Corps. The Air Corps later assigned him to an orientation team whose purpose was to educate the troops about the U.S. war effort to destroy fascism.

In 1958 Sam led the successful fight to oust a leadership that had become too far removed from the membership, and to bring his brand of militant and democratic trade unionism to local 259.

From the time of his election as president of local 259 in 1958 to the present, Brother Meyers' passionate vision, leadership and tough bargaining have won strong membership support and involvement. Surrounded by a committed staff that mirrored the Rainbow Coalition, a strong, diverse, and well educated shop steward system was developed. The creative use of strikes, family and community support and solidarity picket lines helped win for local 259 members higher wages, generous welfare and pension benefits, security for their families, a nationally recognized mental health and occupational safety program, and dignity as industrial workers.

Sam led aggressive organizing campaigns, not only among the auto dealers, local 259's primary jurisdiction, but among low-wage factory workers who were predominantly women. Long before it became Government policy, the union under its president's leadership pursued affirmative action programs to bring people of color and women into union leadership.

Local 259 has been a recognized force in: the civil rights movement, the fight for affirmative action, the continuing struggle against racism; launching the careers and election of progressive forces to public office, including Congress members MAJOR OWENS, CHARLES RANGEL, former Governor Mario Cuomo and former Mayor David Dinkins, and challenging reactionary leadership and regressive social policies promoted in Congress and from the offices of New York's Governor and the mayor of the city of New York; The struggle for full employment, a guaranteed annual income, anti-scab and labor reform legislation, universal single payer health care, decent and affordable housing, and rigorously enforced occupational safety and health standards.

Sam served on the board of advocates for Children of New York, and helped to train parents and community activists in adapting union grievance procedures as a model for school based child advocacy. He initiated the first worksite child advocacy training program for parent members.

He brought the union into a partnership with the NYS Division for Youth and Advocates for Children to create an auto mechanic training program for youths released from DFY facilities.

In the late 1960's Sam was a cofounder of the New York Labor Committee Against the War in Vietnam, and challenged those in high labor positions on their support for the war.

In the early 1970's Brother Meyers helped bring national attention through congressional hearings to the impact of plant closings and runaway shops, as part of corporate America's wanton disregard of its workers at home and abroad.

There followed over two decades of the union's commitment to international labor solidarity. Local 259 championed the forces of liberation and democracy in South Africa, Chile, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Haiti. Scores of labor leaders fighting against oppression throughout the globe have found safe haven, support, and solidarity at Local 259 UAW.

Sam has treasured being an active member of the International UAW. Steeped in the UAW tradition, the union under Brother Meyers' leadership linked members' struggles in Local 259 shops and factories to the struggle for social justice and human rights everywhere.

In recognition of Sam's contributions to the UAW, he was appointed and served on the Commission for the Future of the UAW, meeting with regional representatives throughout the country.

At a recent UAW convention, Sam was selected to nominate Owen Bieber for president.

Sam's proudest legacy is the next generation of social visionaries and militant trade unionists whom he has trained and nurtured to assume the leadership of this great UAW local.

Sam Meyers represents a magnificent Point-of-Light and serves as an inspiring role model for all Americans.

## THE REPUBLICANS' BUDGET HAS GOT IT WRONG

## HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 1995

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget proposal can be summarized as gouging Medicare recipients, nursing home patients, and college students to fund over \$300 billion in tax breaks for the privileged few and to increase defense spending. This is not the formula to achieve a balanced budget. What it does is squeeze our middle class to reward those at the high end.

	<i>In billions</i>
Medicare benefit cuts .....	288.4
Medicaid benefit cuts .....	186.5
<b>Total cuts .....</b>	<b>475.0</b>
Transferred to:	
Tax cuts .....	353.0
Defense increase .....	76.3
<b>Unnecessary new spending .....</b>	<b>429.3</b>

Over one-third of the cuts in the Republican budget come from sacrifices that will be forced on our senior citizens in the form of reduced Medicare benefits and nursing home care. But their budget does nothing to actually reduce the cost of health care in our country. Why not rein in the insurance companies, the doctors, the pharmaceutical companies rather than take it from our seniors? Anyone who has studied the Federal budget over the years knows that the most important factor driving our budget deficit has been increased health costs.

I favor balancing the budget. I have voted for a balanced budget. I fight everyday to cut wasteful spending. The Republicans want to balance the budget on the backs of our grandmothers to turn over nearly \$350 billion in tax breaks to the rich and powerful. Instead, why not get rid of the "Benedict Arnold" tax break that allows a U.S. citizen who has made his millions here to renounce his citizenship and take his millions to some Caribbean island tax free. To balance the budget, health services are being cut for those who are most in need of our attention: seniors on Medicare, nursing home residents, disabled veterans.

### MEDICARE

The best way to look at the effects of the budget proposal on Medicare recipients is to look at per capita benefits under the program. Republicans argue that there are no cuts in Medicare and that spending increases over the 7 years of their budget. This is a half-truth. Their budget falls far short of keeping benefit levels where they are today. Their future projections do not offset health insurance inflation, rising costs of services, and the 3.5 million more Americans who will reach 65 in the next 7 years. Under their plan even the current level of Medicare benefits will not be maintained into the future. Seniors will end up \$3,000 short. This translates into cuts in services, rising out-of-pocket expenses, and higher deductibles and copayments for every senior in this Nation—no matter how in need they are.

Medicare population increases: 37.0 million—1996; 40.5 million—2002.

Year	Money required to maintain current services (billions)	Money proposed in Republican budget (billions)	Medicare short-fall (billions)	Additional cost shifted to seniors each year
1995 .....	179.0	179.0	0.0	\$0.00
1996 .....	196.0	168.0	28.0	744.00
1997 .....	217.0	180.5	36.5	955.00
1998 .....	238.0	191.7	46.3	1196.00
1999 .....	262.0	206.1	55.9	1426.00
2000 .....	286.0	215.4	70.6	1773.00
2001 .....	319.5	218.3	101.2	2523.00
2002 .....	353.8	229.0	124.8	3081.00

The Republican budget will ration health care for millions of seniors while other Americans who are better off will not face health care rationing, but they will continue to pay ever higher prices for health care services because the fundamental challenge of health inflation is not solved.

For every senior, this \$3081-reduction over current benefits means the average American senior has to make it up, either by increased out-of-pocket payments, reductions in covered services, limitation of physician choice, or reductions in already limited physician or hospital reimbursements.

In regard to Medicaid, the Republican budget cuts Medicaid by \$187 billion over the 7 years and shifts the burden of caring for the

long-term chronically ill from the Federal Government to the States.

Ohio's Medicaid budget is \$5.1 billion in 1995. Nursing home benefits account for \$1.9 billion of that budget or 37 percent. The State estimates that Medicaid spending will increase at 8–9 percent a year. If the State has to absorb that increase, it will jeopardize OhioCare. OhioCare is a health care reform plan which would put all current low-income recipients on Medicaid into managed care plans and use the savings to expand Medicaid coverage to working poor families, thereby reducing overall health care costs. In Ohio we are trying to get health care costs under control. The Republican budget does nothing about them, and it may very well sabotage Ohio's efforts.

Who benefits from the \$353 billion in tax breaks assumed in this budget? Fifty-one percent of these breaks go to people who earn over \$100,000 annually. The most wealthy 1 percent of Americans will get a tax cut of more than \$20,000. The poorest 20 percent of Americans will get an average tax cut of \$36. Let's look at some of these.

Eliminating the alternative minimum tax by 1999 will cost \$16.9 billion—for the first 5 years. The alternative minimum tax requires profitable corporations including many foreign corporations operating in the United States to pay a minimum amount of corporate income tax even if under normal tax rules they can write off all their profits.

Before the 1986 tax reform, highly profitable corporations were able to eliminate their tax liability through various tax loopholes. A 1986 survey found that 130 of America's largest and most profitable corporations managed to pay absolutely nothing in Federal income taxes at least 1 year between 1981 and 1985. Forty-two of these companies paid no taxes at all for all those years. Congress, in 1986, decided that made no sense and established the alternative minimum tax so that profitable corporations doing business in the United States had to pay something, if only a minimal amount, in taxes to our country.

The Republican plan includes a \$500 tax credit for children for families with incomes as high as \$250,000. A responsible proposal to limit this credit to families making under \$95,000 was rejected earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, over \$300 billion in tax breaks in the face of huge budget deficits Americans must pay are irresponsible. Tax breaks that overwhelmingly favor the richest corporations and individuals are wrong. I cannot support them.

We must get on track to a balanced budget first before we consider tax cuts.

The Republican budget changes the cost of living calculation for Social Security benefits, in effect lowering the cost of living by 0.6 percent. This will reduce the average Social Security benefit by an estimated \$240 a month by 2002. Their budget commits us to tax cuts for the wealthy while cutting essential income for seniors. I can't countenance that.

The Republican budget would make student loan recipients pay interest on their loan while attending school. This will increase the average student's indebtedness by \$3,400. Over the life of the loan the student would pay an extra \$41 a month, \$5,000 in all. The cut would amount to \$18.7 billion over 7 years. How can anyone justify making it more difficult to get a higher education in our country as we enter a new century which will be characterized by increased international economic competition? I ask you, are the Japanese or the Germans making it harder for their children to get the education they need?

Mr. Speaker, I cannot support this Republican budget proposal. It's anti-family at its core. It is ironic that some Members of Congress, who earn over \$130,000 a year, may think that a budget which gives a \$20,000 tax break to the richest 1 percent of Americans and pays for it by reducing health benefits for our grandmother is good for the country. I don't and I won't vote for it.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN L.  
CRAWFORD

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**  
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 1995*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 19, 1995, a group of dedicated public

school educators gathered in my congressional district to pay tribute to one of their distinguished colleagues, John L. Crawford.

Mr. Crawford has been the principal of Intermediate School 183 since it opened its doors in the South Bronx in 1974 and has earned the distinction of being the longest serving intermediate school principal in Community School District Seven. He has been a dedicated and innovative school leader, bringing many new programs to his school and the district at large. Mr. Crawford developed the first magnet school program in the district, the Paul Robeson Magnet School for Medical Careers and Health Professions, and implemented an comprehensive after-school program which then served as a model for New York City youth board school based programs throughout the city. Because of his leadership and in recognition of his contributions, Mr. Crawford was asked by the chancellor to serve on two special advisory committees: the City-Wide Mainstreaming Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Articulation.

Mr. Crawford's contributions to the community beyond his school are equally impressive. He currently serves as the Council of Supervisors and Administrators Community School District Seven chairman and in 1991, he served as the assistant to the superintendent supervising district activities and programs. He is the deserving recipient of numerous awards and recognitions.

I am proud to count Mr. Crawford among my friends. On behalf of the residents of my district—in particular the many students and school professionals whose lives he has so significantly touched—I thank Mr. Crawford for his years of service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in conveying our best wishes and deep gratitude to the principal of I.S. 183, Mr. John L. Crawford.